



ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD & MILITIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



2013 Annual Report

Membership

In 2013 the Society added **9 Life Members**. We held a “White Glove” , behind the scenes event for life members. This will be an annual event, designed to say thank you and nurture bequest gifts.



Flag Conservation

In 2013 the Society solicited and received a grant to train staff and volunteers on flag and textile conservation . This week long intensive training was performed inside Building 22, our flag storage facility. A similar grant is approved for 2014.



Society Mission

The **Illinois National Guard & Militia Historical Society** preserves and presents the history, traditions and spirit of the Illinois National Guard and Militia by supporting programs designed to educate current and former Guard members and our communities of the historic contributions of the Illinois citizen-soldiers in peace and wartime.

Society Goals

In order to achieve our mission, we have identified four specific goals:

1. Establish a secure future for the Illinois National Guard & Militia Historical Society.
2. Expand the depth of resources provided by the Society.
3. Secure and provide funding for first-class exhibits at the Illinois State Military Museum in order to preserve, honor and display the history of Illinois Militia and National Guard.
4. Improve the visibility and awareness of the Illinois State Military Museum by promoting and expanding access to the Museum.

Museum Attendance

Attendance at the Illinois State Military Museum rose **64%** in 2013.

Events and Scheduled Groups

What a busy year! We had **115** scheduled visits and events.

Students Visits

2472 students visited the Museum as part of group tours. Most groups experienced the Living History Detachment volunteers.



Society Staff

The Illinois National Guard & Militia Historical Society has one full-time staff member and two part-time staff. The executive director handles business matters, performs fundraising, holds special events, handles public relations activities, outreach, website maintenance, social media and supports daily activities inside the museum.

Part-time staff serve as docents when the Museum is open and assist Museum Curator, Bill Lear, conserve and display artifacts. These staff members play a key role in coordination of special tours for group visits. They coordinate the activities of the Living History Detachment and prospect for new group visitors. In effect these individuals function as the assistant to the Curator and the Museum Director. They are extremely knowledgeable about the history of the Militia and Guard.

Society employees are continually working with other historic sites and outside groups to increase Museum attendance. Our unfair advantage has become our personal approach to making each group visit memorable.

Each day at the Illinois State Military Museum is an adventure. On a regular basis, retired military members and their families call and visit the museum to donate treasures. This is a time consuming, yet important process. These treasures represent important keepsakes of the soldier's whose stories we tell.

Volunteers

The Museum and Society added **7 new volunteers** and **3 college interns** working with artifacts.



School Groups

The number of school bus trips continues to grow. A number of new schools visited for the first time in 2013. We work closely with tour companies and the Springfield Tourism Bureau to increase the number of school groups.



Increased National Guard Presence

The Illinois State Military Museum has become a venue for an increasing number of activities in conjunction with the Illinois National Guard. We have hosted promotion ceremonies, retirement events, officer training, new recruit events and receptions for The Adjutant General. We have involved active duty soldiers and equipment in our presentations.



Off Site Presentations

During 2013 the Society sponsored 6 offsite presentations.

E-Mail Marketing

The Society has increased the email list to almost 500 individuals., plus over 2,200 local educators. Our periodic e-newsletters drive people to special events and new exhibits.

Charles Munie Citizen Soldier Fund

In 2013 we raised \$10,000 in contributions towards a \$20,000 matching gift from a private foundation. Discussions are underway to receive the balance of these contributions. Further, the Munie Fund will serve as the signature fund for all future bequests.

Spotlight on the Museum

In 2013 the Society had helped increase public awareness through enhanced media coverage. Local media outlets covered 11 different events at the Museum in 2013. During one recent radio interview ,local talk show host Sam Madonia described the Illinois State Military Museum as **“previously one of the best kept secrets in**

Springfield!”



2013 Events

Blue to Brown

192nd Tank Presentation

Irish Legion Presentation

Vietnam Encampment

Border Campaign

10th Anniversary Open House

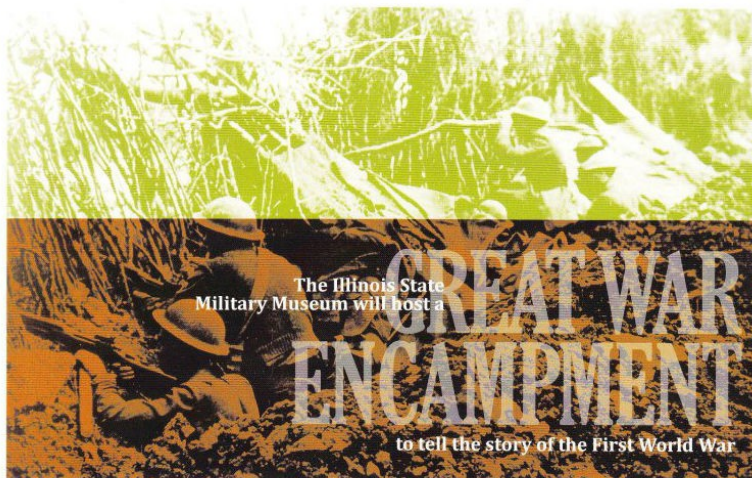
Fiery Trial

White Glove Donor Reception

Great War Encampment

Christmas at the Front

2013 Signature Events



The Society sponsors the Great War Encampment. This event has grown to become one of the most popular WWI reenactment events in the Midwest.



2013 Signature Events

The Society sponsors **Christmas at the Front** each December. This event is an educational and entertaining holiday event. We have lectures on a soldier's life during the holidays, our trench is decorated and living historians take participants back in time. Hot cider, cookies, holiday music and a tree surrounded with Toys For Tots provide a special holiday feel. This event is becoming an annual tradition for Central Illinois families.

Christmas at the Front

Experience a Soldier's Christmas in the trenches of WWI. Walk the recreated trench, meet re-enactors and hear stories from the Soldiers.

Free

Tuesday, December 17, 2013
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

ILLINOIS STATE MILITARY MUSEUM
2 blocks north of MacArthur and N. Grand Ave.
Presentation on Christmas Truce by Dr. Chris McDonald
Music by Sound Celebration Chorus.



Merry Christmas
Hot Cider, Hot Chocolate and Holiday Cookies

for TOYS FOR TOTS
National Guard & Militia Historical Society



Flag Conservation

The Illinois State Military Museum presently has a collection of 960 plus battle flags in an environmentally controlled room in Building 22 on Camp Lincoln.. The Society works with community groups to raise funds to conserve these flags. In early 2013 three flag conservation were completed. During 2013 we assisted three new communities in raising funds to conserve more flags.



The national colors of the 122nd Volunteer infantry returned home after being conserved in early 2013. Fundraising was completed in 2013 to conserve the regimental colors and bring them home to Macoupin County.



Living History Detachment

The Society actively supports the work of the **Illinois State Military Museum Living History Detachment.** The Detachment **brings the history to life** for visitors to the Illinois State Military Museum.



New Exhibits

The Society continually assists with funding the creation of new exhibits in the **Illinois State Military Museum..**



2014

1. In 2013 the Society secured a donor to underwrite bus transportation for local schools. The first group of 230 students is scheduled in May.
2. Plans are underway to bring flag conservation in house. In the past we have spent in excess of \$30,000 to conserve just one Civil War flag. Transportation costs alone have amounted to nearly \$5,000. We have identified a local business to construct frames, historically costing \$5,000 for a reduced amount. Utilizing Society part-time staff and trained volunteers we can conserve more flags and help return more flags to the communities where the flags began their historic journeys.
3. Plans are underway for the Society to sponsor more speakers, book signings and special events. The newest signature event will be the First Annual Illinois State Military Museum Military Vehicle Show on May 17, 2014.
4. At the Annual Meeting on June 21st at the Pritzker Military Library, the Society will announce the inaugural Advisory Board, designed to increase our state-wide presence.